

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 039859

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, NL

SUBJECT: SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL

REF: VENNUM/BERTOT LETTER OF OCTOBER 28, L975

1. FUNDING OF INTERNATIONAL AIRFARE FOR 15 DUTCH FOLK ARTISTS TO PERFORM AT BICENTENNIAL FESTIVAL OF AMERICAN FOLKLIFE AND THEN TOUR OTHER CITIES FOR TWO WEEKS HAS APPARENTLY BOGGED DOWN. WHILE NETHERLANDS EMBASSY, WASHINGTON, BELIEVES NETHERLANDS TOURIST OFFICE, NEW YORK, COULD FUND, SMITHSONIAN HAS NO CONFIDENCE IT HAS EXERTED ANY EFFORTS WHATSOEVER.

2. MOST OTHER COUNTRIES ARE NOW RESOLVING THIS PROBLEM SATISFACTORILY, SOMETIMES OBTAINING FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM TOURISM OFFICE AND THEIR NATIONAL AIRLINES. SWITZERLAND IS LATEST COUNTRY TO USE THIS FORMULA.

3. FESTIVAL IS ESPECIALLY PLEASED WITH POSSIBILITY OF PRESENTING SIX DANCE COUPLES FROM TERSHELLING, TWO ACCORDION PLAYERS AND ONE MIDWINTERHORN PLAYER AS

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PAGE 02 STATE 039859

AUTHENTIC PRACTITIONERS SURVIVING FOLK ART OF

REMARKABLE QUALITY. TWO OR THREE OTHER FOLK ARTISTS MAY
BE ADDED IF FUNDS AVAILABLE. AS POST AWARE, DUTCH WERE

TO BE PART OF BENELUX PRESENTATION JULY 21-25. BELGIUM
IS FULLY COMMITTED. LUXEMBOURG POSING PROBLEM BECAUSE
OF DIFFICULTY RESEARCHING AUTHENTIC SURVIVING FOLK
TRADITIONS. OBTAINING NETHERLANDS COMMITMENT IS
ESSENTIAL ASAP.

4. SMITHSONIAN WOULD BE VERY GRATEFUL IF USIS COULD
PRESENT REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT (ESTIMATED BETWEEN
SEVEN AND TWELVE THOUSAND DOLLARS) TO TOURIST OFFICE OR
KLM OFFICIALS CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE, TO STIMULATE
SOME ACTION THIS PROBLEM. INGERSOLL

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